AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 15 as follows:

As shown in FIG. 1, at time t_0, each line concentrator communicates a queue length signal Q_0=100 to the timeslot assignment unit [[9]]13, indicating that there are one-hundred ATM cells forming a queue in the buffer 6. As long as they remain in the buffer, queue length signals Q_0 will be transmitted at update intervals. Based on a received queue length signal, the timeslot assignment unit [[9]]13 calculates the count number G_0 (=40, for example) of timeslots to be assigned during an assignment period S_0. If the update interval S is equal to the length of a frame, the assignment unit[[9]]13 determines the slot positions of assigned timeslots in a frame at time t_1-α and sends a signal $g_{0\text{-}i}$ to the associated line concentrator for indicating the frame-by-frame timeslot count number and the timeslot position (where i indicates frame number). Timeslot assignment unit [[9]]13 successively calculates the numbers of timeslots G_1=50 and G_2=60 at times t_2-α and t_3-α in response to queue length signals Q_1=100 and Q_2=100 and produces timeslot identification signals $g_{1\text{-}i}$ and $g_{2\text{-}i}$.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 5 as follows:

It is seen that the value G_0=40 produced at time t_0 is actually used by the line concentrator at time t_3 that is delayed by a period of 3S with respect to time t_0. In the same way, the assigned timeslot count numbers G_1=50 and G_2=60 produced at times t_1 and t_2 are

actually used by the concentrator at times t_4 and t_5. The presence of such control delay implies that there are cells in the buffer [[11]]6 which were already assigned timeslots but are still waiting for their turn to be forwarded to the network. For example, at time t_3, there are 100 outstanding cells in the buffer that were already assigned timeslots whose total number equals 150 (=40+50+60).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 5 as follows:

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of [[an]]a point-to-multipoint communication system according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 5 as follows:

When $h[[-]]\equiv 4$, $C_4[[-]]\equiv 4 \times 20/4=20$ assigned to concentrators 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d.